

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5643

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1259

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJ: MOSCOW UNIVERSITY REACTION TO SOLZHENITSYN

REF: MOSCOW 592

1. AMERICAN GRADUATE STUDENT AT MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY AND HIS WIFE, BOTH FLUENT IN RUSSIAN AND APPARENTLY CAREFUL OBSERVERS OF THE SOVIET SCENE, PROVIDED EMBOFF JANUARY 25 WITH DESCRIPTION OF SOVIET STUDENT REACTION TO PUBLICATION OF SOLZHENITSYN'S "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO."

2. NEWS OF BOOKS PUBLICATION PROVOKED ENORMOUS INTEREST AMONG STUDENT BODY, ACCORDING TO COUPLE, WITH ALMOST ALL HUNGRY FOR DETAILS OF STALIN ERA CRIMES. STUDENTS OVERWHELMINGLY SYMPATHETIC AND RESPONSIVE TO SOLZHENITSYN'S ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE DETAILS RE HUSHED-UP PERIOD IN COUNTRY'S HISTORY.

3. PRAVDA'S JANUARY 14 "PATH OF BETRAYAL" ARTICLE (REFTEL), WHICH FIRST ENUNCIATED FULL SOVIET POSITION ON SOLZHENITSYN
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BOOK, WAS THE PARAMOUNT SUBJECT OF INTEREST AND CONVERSATION

THAT DAY, THE COUPLE NOTED. SOVIET FRIENDS TOLD THEM: "WHERE-
EVER YOU SEE TWO STUDENTS WALKING TOGETHER, THEY ARE CERTAIN
TO BE DISCUSSING THE PRAVDA ARTICLE ON SOLZHENITSYN."

BY FAR THE MOST EFFECTIVE ASPECT OF OFFICIAL ATTACK, FROM
STUDENT POINT OF VIEW, WAS LINKING OF SOLZHENITSYN TO FASCISTS,
VLASOVITES, AND USSR'S WORLD WAR II ENEMIES.

4. NET RESULT, COUPLE ESTIMATED, WAS THAT ABOUT 20 PERCENT
OF STUDENT BODY SUPPORTED PRAVDA VIEW, 25 PERCENT WERE STRONG
SYMPATHIZERS WITH SOLZHENITSYN, AND REST WERE APATHETIC OR
CURIOUS BUT WITHOUT PERSONAL CONVICTION ON QUESTIONS RAISED.
DUBS

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